



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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SIMMONS PRAISES NEW CONSTRUCTION AT ROCKY HILL VETERANS HOME

Project Is The First New Construction At The Facility in 65 Years

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today praised the announcement of Governor M. Jodi Rell to commit nearly \$8.8 million in state funds for the new construction and infrastructure improvements at Connecticut's Rocky Hill Veterans Home. Today's announcement by Gov. Rell will allow the state to leverage nearly \$25 million in two federal grants from the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to cover 65 percent of the project costs. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Simmons helped secure the federal portion of this project.

Congressman Simmons said, "I was pleased to hear our Governor Jodi Rell's announcement that more than \$8.7 million in new state funding is available for construction and improvements to the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. This is a project we have been working on for a number of years. In September 2004, the governor and I announced nearly \$31 million in federal funds to upgrade the hospital and build an assisted living center for veterans. The projects to refurbish Rocky Hill were chosen from a list of 131 programs across America that merited federal attention. This is a wonderful example of state and federal government working together. I am glad to see this project moving forward. America's veterans supported our nation when support was needed; it is our turn to support our veterans."

Last month, Rep. Simmons was recognized for his work on the Rocky Hill improvement project when he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH). NASVH President Doris Neibart praised Simmons for his, "national leadership on veterans' issues, and especially on veterans' health and long term care matters, [he] has significantly improved the lives of countless veterans in Connecticut and all across the country. Our State Homes and the veterans we serve are indeed fortunate to have such a courageous and effective friend and advocate in Rob Simmons."

"It is an honor for us to recognize all of the hard work that Congressman Rob Simmons has done and continues to do on behalf of all veterans, and especially those aging and disabled veterans who need and deserve our support," said Robert Shaw, NASVH's Legislative Chair who presented the award to Simmons. "From the battlefields of Vietnam to the hallways of Congress, Rob Simmons has demonstrated the courage and passion our Nation needs from its leaders. We are presenting to him our Distinguished Service Award for a lifetime of service to our Nation, and particularly for his work to improve the lives of his fellow military veterans," he said.

In 2003 and 2004, while serving as Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee, Simmons joined with State legislators, the Governor and then-VA Secretary Anthony Principi, to secure funding for a large construction project to upgrade and modernize a 230-bed skilled nursing care facility in Rocky Hill.

This year, Simmons and Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) introduced H. CON. RES. 347, which will formally recognize the importance of the NASVH and State Veterans Homes in caring for elderly and disabled veterans.

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